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Interview with Jai Lee

Jai Lee

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**LOUISE PETTUS ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS
ORAL HISTORY PROJECT**

**Interview #286
LEE, Jai**

LEE, Jai

Class of 1963 foreign exchange, economics major

Interviewed: January 14, 2014

Interviewer: Cody Willis

Index by: Michelle Dubert-Bellrichard

Length: 18 minutes

Abstract: In her January 14, 2014 interview with Cody Willis, Jai Lee shares her experience as an economic major from Korea. Lee discusses the differences between Korean colleges and Winthrop. This interview was conducted for inclusion into the Louise Pettus Archives and Special Collections Oral History Program.

Keywords: Foreign exchange student, Economics, Korea, UW-Madison

Interview Session (January 14, 2014): Digital File

Time	Keywords
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00:00:00	<i>Start of Interview</i> /Interviewer's Introduction
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00:00:35	<i>Question:</i> Why Winthrop? <i>Answer:</i> Came to Winthrop second semester of sophomore year. Wanted to come to United States from Korea to learn English. Had a cousin in the States attending a college in Spartanburg. Was an economics major – Winthrop had that major?
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00:01:25	<i>Question:</i> Were you studying economics in Korea? <i>Answer:</i> Yes.
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00:01:40	<i>Question:</i> Could you speak some English when you came to America? <i>Answer:</i> “I hope so.” Didn’t have any difficulty with classes. JL took a full course load.
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00:02:15	<i>Question:</i> Any requirements? <i>Answer:</i> Needed to send a transcript.
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00:02:30	<i>Question:</i> Difference of Korean college vs. American one? <i>Answer:</i> Korean college JL attended did not have a dormitory. Went from a coeducated college in Korea to a girl’s school. Living in dorms with girls.
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00:03:10	<i>Question:</i> Any other relatives in the States? <i>Answer:</i> No.
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- 00:03:24 *Question:* Easy to make friends? *Answer:* Yes. Came in semester break and got to know girls.
- 00:03:45 *Question:* Roommate? *Answer:* Friendly, from South Carolina.
- 00:04:13 *Question:* Strict dorm rules? *Answer:* Curfew – had to be back by 11pm. Korean college had a lot of strict rules. Freer than Korea.
- 00:04:45 *Question:* Dorm mother? *Answer:* Yes. Nothing like that in Korea.
- 00:05:15 *Question:* Uniforms? *Answer:* Not at that time. Students in the States and in South Korea dressed similarly. There was no North and South Korea in the 1960s.
- 00:06:15 *Question:* Food? *Answer:* Went to American restaurants in Korea. No problem with food. There was dining room, not a cafeteria. Family-style dinners. Etiquette differed.
- 00:07:30 *Question:* Any events or concerts? *Answer:* Yes. JL remembers John Browning (pianist) concert. JL enjoyed concerts.
- 00:08:08 *Question:* Clubs? *Answer:* JL did not participate. There were gatherings for foreign exchange students. Very few foreign exchange students on campus at the time – mostly from South America.
- 00:09:24 *Question:* Economic professors? *Answer:* Took almost every economic course. Professor Kelly. Mr. Sturgis.
- 00:10:20 *Question:* What did you do with your degree? *Answer:* Went to University of Wisconsin. Got married after getting master's degree. Stayed in Madison, WI.
- 00:10:55 *Question:* What did you do in your free time? *Answer:* A lot of girls went home. JL worked. During semester breaks, JL went to fellow students' homes.
- 00:12:02 *Question:* Traditions? *Answer:* Went with friends to church on holidays and weekends. JL discusses dress.
- 00:12:50 *Question:* President Davis? *Answer:* JL never met the President or his wife.
- 00:13:18 *Question:* Do you keep up with Winthrop? *Answer:* No. Talks about attending Alumni Reunion.
- 00:14:43 *Question:* Sports? *Answer:* No.

00:15:10 *Question:* Did you enjoy your time here? *Answer:* Yes.

00:16:10 *Question:* Dating? *Answer:* No. Met husband at UW-Madison. Worked in UW-Madison Economics Department. Discusses her responsibilities at UW-Madison.

00:17:40 *Question:* Would you recommend Winthrop? *Answer:* JL had a pleasant experience.

00:18:12 *End of interview*